

CLAIMS

1. A method for optimizing ingredient selection for further processing comprising the steps of;

providing a supply of at least one ingredient;

5 calculating at least a first element of said at least one ingredient contained within said supply; and

selecting said at least one ingredient from said supply based on said calculation which correspond to a predetermined recipe to achieve an end product.

10 2. A method for optimizing ingredient selection as recited in claim 1, wherein said first element is an approximate cost of using said ingredient.

3. A method for optimizing ingredient selection as recited in claim 1, wherein said first element relates to nutritional properties of said ingredient.

15 4. A method for optimizing ingredient selection as recited in claim 1, wherein said first element relates to functional properties of said ingredient.

5. A method for optimizing ingredient selection as recited in claim 3, wherein the nutritional property is protein content.

6. A method for optimizing ingredient selection as recited in claim 3, wherein the nutritional property is fiber content.

20 7. A method for optimizing ingredient selection as recited in claim 1, wherein said first element relates to a physical property of said ingredient.

8. A method for optimizing ingredient selection as recited in claim 6, wherein the physical property is moisture content.

25 9. A method for optimizing ingredient selection as recited in claim 6, wherein the physical property is weight.

10. A method for optimizing ingredient selection as recited in claim 1, wherein said recipe is for flour manufacture.

11. A method for optimizing ingredient selection as recited in claim 1, wherein said ingredient is a grain.

18. The system as in claim 13 wherein said blend mix output includes information indicating a difference between actual blend cost and model blend cost.

19. The system as in claim 13 wherein said blend processor further
5 produces a blend summary sheet for previous blends.

20. The system of claim 13 wherein said blend processor prints a blend mix sheet and a blend summary sheet.

21. The system of claim 13 wherein said grain comprises wheat and said blend processor specifies a blend of plural wheat lots to provide flour of a
10 desired grade.